

## Abstract

### **The Mars Sample Return Project—A Status Report**

William J. O'Neil  
Project Manager  
Mars Sample Return Project  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, California, USA

Christian Cazaux  
Mars Sample Return Project Manager  
Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales  
Toulouse, France

At last year's Congress the authors presented the design overview of the joint NASA/CNES Mars Sample Return (MSR) Project then about one year into its development. A major restructuring of the NASA Mars Surveyor Program resulted from the loss of the Mars '98 Climate Orbiter and Polar Lander missions. This restructuring has resulted in major development rescheduling for MSR, which is the central objective of the Program. This Paper will provide an overview of the new architecture for the joint MSR Project and will also describe major design evolution in the flight elements over the past year.